

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-04 LAB-01 SIL-01 TRSE-00

CIEP-01 CU-02 AID-05 DRC-01 /068 W

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R 160856S OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6461

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SEOUL 6874

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJECT: NDP ACTIVITIES

1. NDP POLITICAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL OCT 15 DECIDED TO FILE RESOLUTION CALLING FOR BIPARTISAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY "CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION DELIBERATION COMMITTEE." PARTY ALSO DECIDED TO FORM ITS OWN INTERNAL GROUP TO DRAFT NEW CONSTITUTION AS WELL AS A COMMITTEE TO RPOMOTE CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION. NDP PRESIDENT KIM YONG-SAM WAS QUOTED BY PARTY SPOKESMAN AS SAYING REVISION OF CONSTITUTION SHOULD BE ACHIEVED "AT ALL COSTS" AND AS EXPRESSING BELIEF IN POSSIBILITY OF CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

2. THE NDP OCT 12 INTRODUCED A BILL IN THE ASSEMBLY DEMANDING REPEAL OF DECEMBER 1971 SPECIAL MEASURES LAW ON NATIONAL DEFENSE WHICH, AMONG OTHER THINGS, PROHIBITS STRIKES AND GIVES PRESIDENT POWER TO CHANGE ALLOCATION OF BUDGET AFTER IT IS PASSED BY ASSEMBLY. NDP CLAIMS THAT LAW NOT NECESSARY SINCE YUSHIN CONSTITUTION GIVES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRESIDENT EMERGENCY MEASURE POWERS. NDP ALSO NOTED THAT LAW RESTRICTS BASIC RIGHTS OF PEOPLE AND MAKES ASSEMBLY BUDGET DEBATE MEANINGLESS.

3. PRESS REPORTS OCT 16 THAT NDP HAS DECIDED TO LAUNCH "POLITICAL OFFENSIVE" AGAINST RULING CAMP TO PUSH BILLS THROUGH ASSEMBLY.

4. NDP FLOOR LEADER KIM HYONG-IL HAS TOLD US THAT GOVERNMENT ASSEMBLYMEN HAVE SO FAR REJECTED, BOTH PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY ALL NDP LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS. KIM SAID THAT NDP IS DETERMINED TO GET AT LEAST SOME CONCESSIONS FROM GOVERNMENT. KIM CONFIRMED THAT CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION WILL REMAIN SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE. HOWEVER, HE MENTIONED REPEAL OF SPECIAL MEASURES LAW AS AREA WHERE NDP HOPES GOVERNMENT MIGHT SHOW FLEXIBILITY, AND HE ALLUDED TO BOYCOTT OF BUDGET VOTES AS POSSIBLE METHOD FOR NDP TO PUT PRESSURE ON GOVERNMENT.

5. COMMENT: FOLLOWING RECENT INCREASED STUDENT-CHRISTIAN PROTEST ACTIVITY NDP SEEMS TO BE MOVING IN ASSEMBLY TO POSITION OF MORE DIRECT CONFLICT WITH GOVERNMENT PARTIES. OPPOSITION'S CONTINUED EMPHASIS ON CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION IS PARTICULARLY WORRISOME TO GOVERNMENT PARTIES GIVEN PRESIDENT PARK'S PUBLIC POSITION THAT THERE WILL BE NO CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE IN PRESENT SITUATION.

SNEIDER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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